

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 18-33 are presently pending in this application. Claims 1-17 have been canceled.

All claims were rejected over the newly cited primary reference Kramer (6,842,571) in view of one or more secondary references.

The Kramer patent was filed September 5, 2002. The present application claims the priority of German application No. 102 29 428.3 filed July 1, 2002.


Thus, the priority date for the present application predates the filing date of the Kramer patent. Kramer is therefore not effective prior art against the present application.

With Kramer removed as a reference, the claims are neither anticipated by or obvious over the secondary references applied against them in the Final Rejection.

In view thereof, applicant submits that all claims are patentable, and a corresponding notification at an early date is requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at (415) 576-0200.

Respectfully submitted,


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